



Suicide Death Rates, Age-Adjusted Clark County and Washington State, 1994 through 2001

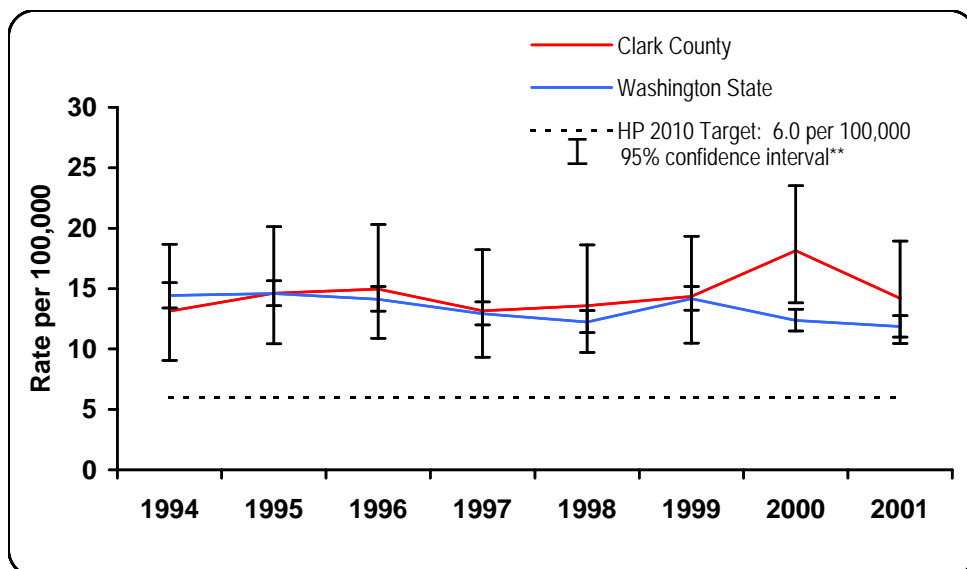
Why we should care: The United States Surgeon General has declared youth suicide a serious public health concern. (3) Nationally, suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth between the ages of 15 and 24. (3) In 2002, 727 Washington residents committed suicide, (age-adjusted rate 12.4 per 100,000 population). In the total state population, suicide is the ninth leading causes of death. (3)

Status:

- The Healthy People 2010 Target is 6.0 suicides per 100,000.
- In Clark County, from October 2000 to March 2001, there have been 7 deaths by suicide and a significant number of attempts reported at hospital emergency rooms, crisis services, and elsewhere.
- Clark County's youth suicide rate is greater than the national rate of 2.4 suicide deaths per 100,000 in the age group 15 to 19.
- In 2001, Suicide in Clark County is declining from a peak in 2000.

What we can do:

- Promote public awareness that suicide is a public health problem, and many suicides are preventable. Use information technology to make facts about suicide and suicide prevention widely and appropriately available to the general public and health care providers. (2)
- Expand awareness of and enhance access to resources for suicide prevention programs in communities. Develop and implement strategies to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness, substance abuse, and suicide and with seeking help for such problems. (2)
- If in crisis, please call the Clark County Crisis Line. **Hours: 24 hours / 7 days Tel: (360) 696-9560 (360) 696-1925 TDD 1-800-626-8137. Website: <http://www.co.clark.wa.us/commserve/mental/mhealth2.htm>.**



Year	Clark County			Washington State		
	Rate*	95% CI**	Number	Rate*	95% CI**	Number
1994	13.1	(9.1, 18.7)	34	14.4	(13.4, 15.5)	756
1995	14.6	(10.4, 20.1)	41	14.6	(13.6, 15.7)	791
1996	15.0	(10.9, 20.3)	45	14.1	(13.1, 15.2)	781
1997	13.2	(9.3, 18.2)	39	12.9	(12.0, 13.9)	725
1998	13.6	(9.7, 18.6)	41	12.2	(11.4, 13.2)	696
1999	14.4	(10.5, 19.3)	46	14.2	(13.2, 15.2)	819
2000	18.1	(13.8, 23.5)	60	12.4	(11.5, 13.3)	727
2001	14.2	(10.5, 18.9)	49	11.9	(11.0, 12.8)	710

Please see reverse side for technical notes and sources



Technical Notes: The age-adjusted death rate is defined as the number of deaths per 100,000 standard population after removing the effects of age on mortality.

*Rate per 100,000 population adjusted using the 2000 U.S. Standard Population; deaths coded using ICD 10.

** If the confidence intervals for state and county overlap in a given year, there is no significant difference between these rates.

Sources: (1) U.S. Public Health Service, The Surgeon General's Call To Action To Prevent Suicide. Washington, DC: 1999 (2) State Death Data: DOH Centers for Health Statistics, Death Record System. (3) <http://www.co.clark.wa.us/current/archive2/031901.htm> (4) Vital Registration System, Annual Statistics Files, Deaths 1994-2001. [Data file]. Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. (5) Public Health: Seattle & King County, Epidemiology, Planning, & Evaluation. (1991-2003). VistaPHw (version 3.1.1) [Computer Software for public health assessment]. Seattle, WA.